

IFSW EUROPE PROJECT 2008

SOCIAL WORK STANDARDS MEETING HUMAN RIGHTS

At the Delegates Meeting in Parma in 2007 the IFSW Europe project for 2008 was agreed as “Standards for Social Work Meeting Human Rights”. To begin this project we are inviting member organisations to complete the following questionnaire. This questionnaire is a preliminary investigation focussing on gathering information. The IFSW Europe Executive Committee aim to prepare a final proposal on how to organise the project based on the answers given to this questionnaire. Completion of the questionnaire by member organisations is therefore a very important aspect of the project. Answers will be seen as background information for the further development of the project – to be discussed at the Delegates Meeting in May 2008 in Porto.

In addition to completing this questionnaire, you are asked to send any statements/documents on social work standards or human rights issues in social work from your country to the IFSW Europe Honorary Secretary

One of the aims of this first questionnaire is to develop an understanding of the different views on standards of social work practice (not social services) across the region. Initially we are **defining social work standards** as the instruments which in your country uphold good practice and ensure quality to service users. That might mean for instance a code of ethics or a code of conduct. Different terms may be used in different countries. Following the completion of the questionnaire by member organisations, we will seek to develop a definition of social work standards.

You may find that some research around human rights will assist you in the completion of this questionnaire. We have included with this mailing a list of websites which you may find useful to assist you. If you need any further information and advice on the completion of the questionnaire please contact Siobhan Maclean, Honorary Secretary of IFSW Europe on Europe@ifsw.org

At the end of the questionnaire you are invited to say how your organisation may wish to assist in the development of this project – you may be willing to host a seminar, attend a seminar, develop a paper based on some of the issues which arise etc. Please do think about how your organisation may assist with the further development of the project.

**The completed questionnaire should be returned to
Siobhan Maclean, Honorary Secretary IFSW Europe at
Europe@ifsw.org by 4th April**

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SOCIAL WORK STANDARDS MEETING HUMAN RIGHTS

Your Country: _____

The name of your organisation: _____

The name and e-mail address of the person filling in this questionnaire:

A. BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

1. What is the approximate population of your country?

2. How many social workers are there in your country?

3. How many social workers are members of your organisation?

4. What role does your organisation have? Tick as many as apply.

Professional Association

Trade Union

Regulatory Body

Other Please specify _____

5. At what level and number of study-years is social work education in your country?

6. Is the social work profession regulated in your country?

No

Yes If yes. Is it: Self regulated

Regulated by an organisation

If regulated by an organisation, what is the name of the organisation? If possible give a website address.

B. STANDARDS IN SOCIAL WORK

1. Who or what defines the standards of social work practice (not social services) in your country? Tick as many boxes as are relevant.

the individual worker

the state

regional legislation

national legislation

the individual department/agency/organisation

the profession (eg: through the professional association)

the users (eg: through user organisations)

the schools/universities

other. Please specify _____

2. How are social work standards defined? Please give as much detail as possible?

3. When were social work standards introduced?

4. Which of the following areas of social work practice do the standards cover?
Tick as many boxes as are relevant.

- Supervision
- Ethics
- Social work education
- Continual professional development
- Quality issues
- Quantity issues
- Contact with service users
- Administration issues
- Co-operation with other professionals
- Responsibility of employers

5. Are the standards different for different areas of social work (eg: for work with children, older people, people with disabilities etc)?

- No
- Yes If yes. Please give an explanation

6. Who or what promotes the standards of social work practice in your country?
Please give the name of the organisation and any available web-site details.

7. How are social work standards promoted? Please give as much detail as possible.

8. Who or what monitors whether standards of social work practice are met in your country? Please give the name of the organisation and any available web-site details.

9. How do they monitor whether social work standards are met? Please give as much detail as possible.

10. What action is taken where:

➤ Individual workers don't meet social work standards

➤ An organisation doesn't meet social work standards

C. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. In your country, are human rights issues seen as closely related to social work?

Very closely related

Quite closely related

Related to some extent

Related a little

Not at all related

2. What are the human rights issues in your country related to social work in the following areas? Please provide at least one issue in each area:

➤ Related to the users of social work?

➤ Related to the wider community?

➤ Related to the social workers?

3. Please provide an explanation of one specific role of social workers in your country which relates to human rights.

4. Please provide an example of good practice from your country in relation to social work and human rights.

5. Is there legislation in your Country which covers human rights? If so, please give the names of relevant legislation.

6. Is any reference made to International instruments of human rights within your country? If so, how are these used in practical social work?

7. Does your organisation network with any human rights bodies? If so, please give details.

D. SOCIAL WORK STANDARDS MEETING HUMAN RIGHTS

1. In your country, do social work standards and human rights:

- Compliment each other
- Conflict with each other
- Neither of the above

Please give any additional information (such as examples) to explain your response.

2. Are there any issues within your country in relation to social work standards and human rights in the following areas (please give details)?

➤ Social work conditions _____

➤ Regulation of the profession _____

➤ Confidentiality and the sharing of information _____

➤ Training issues _____

➤ User perspectives _____

➤ Other issues of your own concern _____

E. THE IFSW EUROPE PROJECT

1. What outcomes would your organisation expect at the end of this project?

2. Are you able to be involved in developing the project in any of the following ways:

- Hosting a seminar (we expect these to be in September/October 2008)
- Attending a seminar
- Developing a background paper relating to some of the issues raised by the project

Do you have any final comments relating to this project?
